

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGING**  
**June 15, 2015**

<b>COA MEMBERS</b>	<b>DOA STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Mary Beachley	Kitty Devilbiss	M.C. Keegan-Ayers		Betsy Algire
John Brown	Sue Ramsburg	Tom Lawler		Ray Brown, DSS
Elizabeth Chung	Pat Rosensteel	Randy McClement, Mayor		Deborah Cerullo
Ernell Graham	Carolyn True	Roberta Speace		Sarah Dunne
Carol Haag				Dana French
Diane Lewis				Louise Lynch
Tish Raff				Jenny Morgan
Katie Rhinehart-Hemler				Cindy Powell
Virginia Skelley				Sonja Sperlich
Cynthia White				

- I. **Call to Order** – Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Carol welcomed all attendees. Commission members and Dept of Aging staff introduced themselves to the audience. Due to the interest at last month's meeting, today's meeting will include a presentation from Martie Weatherly who represents the Liberty Village which is a growing village in Frederick County.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – Carol would like to add a New Business item to the agenda. There are a couple new members who are interested in joining the Executive Committee.

- IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the April 13th meeting were approved. John Brown made a motion to approve the minutes and Katie Rhinehart-Hemler seconded the motion. All were in favor. A summary of the May presentation is also available for review.
- V. County Budget Status Report, Carolyn True** – Carolyn gave a status summary of the Dept. of Aging budget appeal requests. The Department had submitted four budget appeal requests and three were approved for the next fiscal budget. The requests approved include two new staff positions for the Department which are a second Program Specialist and a Volunteer Coordinator. The County will also provide the funding to support the MAP (Maryland Access Point) Coordinator position. Carolyn thanked the members of the Commission for advocating and their support of these positions. Carolyn added that the current MAP Coordinator, Kathy Schey will be leaving the Department. Advertising for all three positions will be publicized once the job descriptions have been updated and approved.
- VI. Business Task Force Update, Tom Lawler** – Tom was unable to attend today's meeting, but Carol was able to provide an update. There was continued discussion of the Chamber Symposium at the last meeting. This symposium was cancelled due to weak response, but will be rescheduled in the fall. The task force spent time at the meeting reviewing the agenda of the forum and rethinking strategies to get more community involvement for the fall forum.
- At the meeting, there was discussion on priorities for this task force. One suggestion was to bring together agencies that work on transportation and housing issues and assess what progress is being made and what else needs to be done. A second suggestion is to review gaps in service for older adults. Some needs are respite services, access to mental health services, and more case management. A suggestion is to have an Office of Economic Development representative come to a meeting to see what they could do or are doing to assist small businesses in this area.
- VII. Committee Reports/Nominating Committee, Katie Rhinehart-Hemler** – The Nomination Committee recently conducted two interviews for new members. Leslie Schultz from the non-profit SOAR and Thea Unlig-Ruff from the Jewish Social Services Agency Hospice were interviewed. Both are recommended for approval as new members by the Committee. As they are both service providers, their addition to the CoA will depend on pending by-law changes. Katie is seeking approval by the CoA so both can be included once by-law changes have been made. Ginny made a motion to accept both as new members. Elizabeth Chung seconded the motion. All

were in favor. There are three members who are up for renewal of their membership. These members include Katie Rhinehart-Hemler, Elizabeth Chung, and Tom Lawler. All have submitted letters of continued interest. Ginny from the Nomination Committee recommends renewals of these members. Dianne Lewis made a motion to approve the renewal. Mary Beachley seconded the motion. All were in favor. This will be the last official meeting for Ginny Skelley who has been a member of the Commission since 2007. She has worked on many committees and provided much support for this Commission. Katie stated that there is a need for more members on the Nomination Committee. Please let Katie or Carol know if you are interested. Cindi White agreed to join the Nomination Committee. The process to becoming a member can be lengthy due to the need for approval of membership by the County Executive and the County Council. It was suggested that if Nomination Committee members can be present to answer questions during the approval process it may expedite the process.

There also is a need for more members on the Executive Committee. Tish and Dianne have both expressed interest in joining this committee. Ginny made a motion for these members to join the Executive Committee. Katie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**VIII. Presentation, “Liberty Village, A Unique Frederick County Village” Martie Weatherly** – Martie is here from the Liberty Village to present and provide information regarding this community located outside of Libertytown in Frederick County. Tom Loft attended also and set up all the displays. There are approximately 135 similar communities with more than 100 more in progress. This type of co-housing community can normally consist of not more than 50/60 homes and no fewer than 10, can be urban or rural areas, and can be multigenerational. These homes are privately owned and have an emphasis on environmental sustainability. The community also has an emphasis on social interaction. There are many social functions which include weekly dinners, holiday picnics, and regular meetings. People who are interested in moving into the community are invited to these social gatherings. There is a welcoming committee who assigns a mentor to new community members.

Some of the characteristics of these communities are:

1. Future residents participate in the design which can be developer driven or developed by the participants.
2. A neighborhood design of clusters of private homes. This one is 23 acres with 15 acres of open space.
3. There are community facilities with the land owned by a community foundation. There may be a common house for use of all residents and for social events.

4. The community members manage themselves with group decisions on what affects the community.
5. There is a non-hierarchical structure in that each person does as much as they can for community. There are teams and team leaders and every one's point of view is respected. Major decisions for the community are discussed at group meetings.
6. There is no shared community economy with no pooling of funding. There is a partnership only to sell lots to grow the development.

There is flexibility in the size of the houses and this community is multigenerational with no age restrictions. The same builder has been used for the majority of the properties. There is no universal design for the homes. Some of the homes are built to be handicap accessible, but most are not. There is a focus on being environmentally friendly. Some homes have solar power and/or geothermal heating which is encouraged. There are no financial or grant programs to assist with buying. Interested parties must be able to afford to build/buy the home.

This group has banded with others in the region to create a 5013(c) non-profit organization to educate and inform people on this type of community. There is a DVD, brochures, and a book available with information about these options. There will be a meeting this Saturday at Liberty Village to share information. There will be a breakfast and tours available.

### **Question and Answer**

Question – Do all co-housing programs start from scratch?

Sometimes these communities can be formed from old neighborhoods with older homes and new homes are added to the community.

Question – There are people of different age ranges in the community. Is there any benefit to the elderly to live here?

There is a value for the elderly and terminally ill because there is a sense of community, working together and caring for each other. Communities that have buildings specifically for seniors may be more popular, but age segregation is a loss for all generations.

Question – What is the breakdown of ages in this community?

There are 35-37 adults with approximately 15 children. There can be conflict to so many generations living so closely but it enhances the opportunity to work together to resolve challenges.

Question - Is there much turnover in the neighborhood?

There is some turnover due to job relocations and/or marriage status changes.

Question - What percentage dislike the environment once they have moved in?

It has been a very small percentage at this point.

Question – Are there any garages in this community?

There are no garages or carports in the community at this time.

There are parking spaces near the homes with carts to use for taking items from car to home. There is access for emergency equipment near the homes. Since this is a rural community, there is not bus service or public transportation options. But there are ride-share options.

Question – How many homes are in Liberty Village?

Currently there are 18 homes, 10 lots plotted and 10 future homes not bought.

Question – What is the cost of the homes?

The lots are approximately \$40-\$45,000. For the new homes it will be approximately \$300,000 and up. It depends on what the owner selects for the home.

Question – Are you still using the same builder?

The original builder has retired. The new builder is Frank Dertzbaugh.

Question – Are members discouraged from using the community house for outside groups?

There are no restrictions on bringing family/friends in for separate gatherings.

#### **IX. Announcements –**

Ginny announced that there will be a screening of the movie “Still Alice” this evening hosted by AARP and the Alzheimer’s Association. There will also be a panel discussion. It will be at 7pm and there is no charge. It will be presented at the Holiday Cinema. See Ginny for details if interested

The MD CoA will be having a yearly training/symposium on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Chesapeake College on the Eastern Shore. The focus will be Maryland Access Point, funding, and reimbursement via service units.

The CoA Executive meeting will be on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

A committee needs to be created to work on rewriting/revising the by-laws. They have not been revised since 2007. Elizabeth Chung, Dianne Lewis and Pat Rosensteel are interested in working on this project. Ginny suggested this group also work on the redraft of the Mission and Vision of the CoA. Once the by-laws have been revised, they will need to be approved by the County Executive.

**X. Public Comment –**

**XI. Adjournment -**

The official meeting adjourned however, Chairperson Carol Haag asked the CoA members to remain to discuss the purpose and membership of several CoA subcommittees related to aging issues.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg  
Recording Secretary